

the Committee on Natural Resources is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. THORNBERRY: I am writing concerning H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017.

This legislation contains provisions within the Committee on Agriculture's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Agriculture will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Committee Report and in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

K. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. MICHAEL CONAWAY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Agriculture has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Agriculture is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 29, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017." This legislation contains provisions that fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive my committee's right to sequential referral. I do so with the understanding that by waiving formal consideration of the bill, the Committee on Ways and Means does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill which fall within its Rule

X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of my committee to any conference committee that is convened to consider such provisions.

Please include this letter and your response confirming our understanding in the committee report on H.R. 4909, and in the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor.

Sincerely,

KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. KEVIN BRADY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Ways and Means has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Ways and Means is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRMAN THORNBERRY: I write to confirm our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 4909, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017." While the legislation does contain provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee will not request a sequential referral so that it can proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration.

The Committee takes this action with the understanding that its jurisdictional interests over this and similar legislation are in no way diminished or altered, and that the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as such legislation moves forward. The Committee also reserves the right to seek appointment to any House-Senate conference on such legislation and requests your support when such a request is made.

Finally, I would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of H.R. 4909 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman.*

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, May 3, 2016.

Hon. FRED UPTON,  
*Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4909, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017. I agree that the Committee on Energy and Commerce has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request a referral in the inter-

est of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the committee report on the bill.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM M. "MAC" THORNBERRY,  
*Chairman.*

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes:

Ms. SINEMA. Mr. Chair, I join my colleagues in opposition to this amendment.

Like members on both sides of this debate, I strongly support strengthening our domestic industrial base. I also support efficiently using taxpayer dollars to ensure our military has the best systems and equipment.

While well intentioned, this amendment is overly broad and could have serious unintended consequences for taxpayers, for our military, and for our foreign policy.

My colleagues have discussed the cost and technical issues. I share these concerns about negatively disrupting the AMRAAM and potentially other tactical missile programs.

We should also consider the consequences this amendment may have for our ability to engage in cost sharing with our international allies and partners.

Cost sharing on a variety of platforms can drive competition, improve technologies available to our military, and lower costs for taxpayers. It also strengthens the partnerships we leverage to provide stability and security for the United States.

It is my understanding that a reasonable path forward exists to ensure we can build our domestic manufacturing base for solid rocket motors.

I encourage my colleagues to oppose this amendment so that we can advance a targeted solution to address the specific programmatic concerns of the sponsor, without imposing an overbroad mandate that disrupts all tactical missile programs.

Again, thank you Congresswoman MCSALLY and Ranking Member SMITH.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017

SPEECH OF

**HON. ROBERT J. DOLD**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 17, 2016*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4909) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense